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THE 1958 ACREAGE RESERVE PROGRAM

#351 for
Corn, Upland Cotton, Rice,
Tobacco, and Spring Wheat



Producers of spring-planted allotment crops can take part in the Acreage Reserve program of the Soil Bank again this year—earning payments and helping to adjust production.

For 1957, over 21 million allotment-crop acres on more than 900,000 farms were put in the Reserve—under agreements calling for payments of \$614 million.

All farmers with "old Farm" allotments for corn, upland cotton, rice, tobacco, and wheat (if they normally produce spring wheat) are eligible to participate in 1958. The signup period is from January 13 to March 7. Winter wheat agreements were signed last fall.

By taking part in the Acreage Reserve, farmers will:

- • Protect their current income with payments earned while land is out of production and in the Reserve.
- • Have a guaranteed income from the land in the Reserve even though the growing season is bad.
- • Help cut down burdensome surpluses.
- • Maintain the productivity of the land for future use.

Participation

Taking part in the Acreage Reserve is voluntary. Farmers who participate will sign a 1-year Acreage Reserve agreement with their County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee. Land to be placed in the Reserve will be specifically designated. Land already in the Conservation Reserve (the other part of the Soil Bank) cannot be put in the Acreage Reserve.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Payment Rates

A dollar-and-cents rate per acre will be established by the County ASC Committee for each allotment crop, for each farm. The rate will vary from county averages according to the farm's relative productivity and farming methods.

The following national "average" per-acre rates give a general indication of the levels for the different allotment crops: Wheat, \$20.88; upland cotton, \$58.95; corn, \$44.46; rice, \$67.79. National average tobacco rates vary by type. The average rate for flue-cured tobacco is \$255.42; and for burley, \$295.74.

Farmers who participated in any 1957 Acreage Reserve program and complied with their agreements, and who designate all or part of the identical acreage for the 1958 Acreage Reserve, will receive payments which are 10 percent larger than the regular per-acre payments which are determined for their farms in 1958.

Extent of Participation

In general, there will be no limits on the number of "allotment" acres which can be put in the Acreage Reserve for 1958—up to the established farm allotment for each eligible crop. Exceptions may be necessary to give all producers a fair and equitable chance to participate, or to prevent an adverse effect upon the overall economy of an area. Since funds available for payments are limited, farmers should sign up promptly to assure that their agreements will be accepted.

What Can Be Done on Reserve Land

Cover crops may be planted on the designated Acreage Reserve, but they may not be harvested or grazed. The Reserve is eligible for cost-sharing practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program, as approved by County ASC offices. Erosion and noxious weeds must be controlled on Acreage Reserve land.

Allotment History Protected

The part of a farm acreage allotment which is put in the Acreage Reserve will be classed the same as land used to produce the crop covered by the allotment. Therefore, future

allotments for the farm will not be reduced because of Acreage Reserve participation.

Farm Soil Bank Base

In 1958 for the first time, there will be an overall limitation on total crop production on farms which are signed up under the Acreage Reserve.

A Soil Bank farm base will be established for each farm taking part in the 1958 Acreage Reserve program. This "base," similar to that already in effect for farms participating in the Conservation Reserve program, is the average of the amount of land from which Soil Bank base crops were harvested on a farm in the two years 1956 and 1957.

Soil Bank base crops include wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, rice, peanuts (harvested for nuts or hay, or hogged off); other small grains harvested for grain, hay, or ensilage; potatoes (including sweetpotatoes); sugar beets and sugar cane; sudan; millet; annual rye grass and similar annual grasses if harvested for seed; mangels and cow beets; all vegetables, berries, melons, and cantaloups; and specialty crops such as mint. The farm garden for home use is not counted as part of the farm Soil Bank base.

In Acreage Reserve agreements, participating farmers agree to limit their harvested crops to their farm "Soil Bank base," less the amount of land in the Acreage Reserve and the Conservation Reserve. This acreage for harvest is called the "permitted acreage."

The Soil Bank base for a farm will be established by the County ASC Committee. However, farmers who expect to take part in the 1958 Acreage Reserve program have the responsibility of furnishing the county ASC office their farm's 1956 and 1957 acreage records of all Soil Bank base crops. The farm's Soil Bank base must be established before an agreement can be approved by the County ASC Committee. If a "base" already has been established for a farm under the Conservation Reserve or the 1958 winter wheat Acreage Reserve, that "base" will be used.

Limitation on Payments

There is a limitation, by law, of \$3,000 on the total Acreage Reserve payments that can be

made to any one producer on any farm. For example, for a farm on which the landlord and the tenant share in the Acreage Reserve payment, the landlord would be limited to total payments of \$3,000 and the tenant would be limited to total payments of \$3,000. Details about the application of this limitation can be obtained at the ASC office for the county in which the individual farm is located.

Compliance Requirements

A producer must comply with all acreage allotments assigned to a farm in order to be eligible for Soil Bank payments.

Producers who are not in compliance with certain provisions of the Acreage Reserve agreement will be subject to a civil penalty equal to one-half the payment which would have been made for compliance, in addition to loss of the payment. These provisions include the requirements that crops may not be harvested or grazed from the designated Acreage Reserve and that more acres of a designated Reserve crop may not be harvested than the "maximum acreage for harvest"—the acreage allotment less the Reserve acreage.

For details about how the 1958 Acreage Reserve will work on your farm—and its advantages for you, call at your County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Office soon.